



June/July 2022

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Field Day Returns to the Field

After two years of using home stations to conduct Field Day activities, this year's event will return to the Masonic Lodge hall on June 25-26. In addition, EGARA will run three stations -- or 3A -- as ARRL refers to it. Besides the club's two HF stations, Dave Smith, WA2WAP, will operate a digital station from the site, providing a bonus of two FD points for each digital contact made.

Preparations for this year's Field Day will begin Friday evening at 5 pm (6/24), with the set up and testing of the club's antennas and the gear. Logging computers will also be installed to capture each contact made during the 24 hour event.



As always, EGARA will provide refreshments, food and snacks for those who work FD. Club members who plan to participate will be asked to sign-up and indicate what hours they plan to operate. The Masonic Lodge will be staffed by the club and available to members to operate for the entire 24 hour FD schedule. Sign-up sheets will be available at the June 8th meeting. New FD rules are also in effect for 2022 and are on page two.

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Field Day Offers HF Opportunities to Techs

If you hold a Technician Class license and have been itching to work those HF bands, Field Day is the perfect opportunity for you!

Techs who pair up with a General or Extra Class operator can work HF bands and experience the fun of working long distance communications with other hams across the U.S. and Canada.

EGARA members who hold Tech tickets are welcome to coordinate when they can work together with those who have higher class licenses. They can also come to the Masonic Lodge anytime during FD activities and likely find a member with HF privileges on hand who they can team up with and operate.

Chances are, once Techs work HF, they'll want to upgrade their tickets!

Next Membership Meeting - 7 pm - Wednesday, June 8, 2022

FD 2022 Brings New Rule Changes



After taking a few detours over the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ARRL Field Day rules are being updated on a permanent basis starting this year.

ARRL conducted a Field Day community survey with invitations sent far and wide, and direct emails sent to more than 15,000 individuals and ARRL-affiliated clubs. After sorting through, reviewing, and discussing the survey results, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee recommended a number of rule changes for ARRL Field Day, which will take place this year over the June 25 – 26 weekend.

Starting this year, the maximum PEP output for a transmitter used by anyone submitting a Field Day log will be 100 watts. The power multiplier of 2 will remain in place, and the high-power category will be removed from the rules. Until this year, the maximum low-power limit had been 150 watts for most ARRL-sponsored operating events. The power multiplier will remain at 5 for QRP participants running a maximum of 5 watts or less.

As previously announced, 100 watts is now the low-power category limit for all ARRL and IARU HF Contests, effective January 1, 2022.

A couple of changes instituted initially as accommodations for the COVID-19 pandemic will remain. Class D (Home) stations will continue to be able to earn points for contacts with other Class D stations. The club aggregate scoring change initiated in 2020 as a temporary measure will become part of the permanent rules. In the aggregate scoring plan, the scores of individual stations are combined under the score of a single club.

Another change, involving Rule 7.3.2 Media Publicity, has been modified. Rules to date have offered 100 bonus points for attempting to obtain publicity and demonstrating same. With the ease of posting via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and various other media websites, Field Day participants will now be required to obtain publicity, not just try to do so. Any combination of bona fide media hits would qualify for the bonus points.

For example, posting the details of your upcoming or ongoing Field Day activity, or your Field Day results, on a club or news media site, on Facebook, or via Twitter and Instagram would meet the bonus criteria. Photos and videos are encouraged as part of media posts.

Save the Date, Participate and Get a Field Day Pin Free!

Field Day is always the 4th weekend of June -- making it June 25-26 this year. Mark your calendar and sign up for the hours you can operate. Then join the fun and help the club rack up its FD points by making as many contacts as you can!

Each member who works Field Day will get a FD 2022 pin from the club for FREE!



What is ARRL Field Day?

While most EGARA members are well familiar with Field Day, some new members may be interested in knowing more, especially if this will be their first. So here are the details in a nutshell, courtesy of ARRL:

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a camp out, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar. For EGARA, it is one of the year's biggest events.



Field Day 2019 -- the last held at the Masonic Lodge before the pandemic. Nick Field, KD2JCR operates as Gina Pendolino, KC2QJC, logs contacts.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities. Available FD bands are: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above. Any mode supporting the Field Day exchange is allowed.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things. Field Day is an opportunity to put these advances to use, as well as to employ more traditional ham radio technologies.

For more information visit: www.arrl.org/field-day

The History of Ham Radio: WWV

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

At the ARRL's request in the summer of 1923, the Bureau of Standards announced that it would begin a schedule of broadcasts on precise wavelengths so that amateurs could calibrate their wave meters and receivers. The Bureau's station in Washington, D.C., ran a highly stable oscillator driving a one-kilowatt power amplifier and had a proven record of being heard over a wide area, even on the West Coast. In print its call sign, WWV, evokes the graphical visualization of a radio wave.



Bureau of Standards, ca. 1924

On the air since 1920, WWV began as a source of news from the Department of Agriculture, broadcast on CW. It also experimented with Friday evening concert broadcasts. But in late 1922 its emphasis changed to transmitting standard frequency signals, something more in line with the Bureau's mission, primarily for the benefit of commercial stations. WWV had also conducted the QSS tests of 1920 jointly with amateurs, when QST Technical Editor Robert S. Kruse was at the key in his dual role of government engineer and radio amateur.

Now the Bureau would again collaborate with amateurs to promote precise frequency measurement and control. It planned to broadcast from July through October from Washington, D.C., on a schedule that would run from 11:00 p.m. until 12:41 a.m. Eastern Time, spending eight minutes on each of seven wavelengths between 705 and 200 meters. Amateurs were advised to mark their receiver settings for each one, and then calibrate their wave meters to their receivers.

In 1923, amateur radio receivers were still cumbersome to adjust. To illustrate, this is how one such tuning procedure was described, in preparation for the broadcasts:

In all receiving sets now available the tuning is changed somewhat by any adjustment of the tickler, tuning switches, antenna condenser, filament rheostat, or anything at all. Therefore, take no chances, but get all prepared before WWV's schedule with a log sheet and a pencil to take down these adjustments. Then when you hear WWV, loosen the coupling as much as possible and tune the secondary circuit very carefully to WWV's wave. Now note down the exact position of every movable adjustment on the set. Don't trust to memory; it is no good for the purpose.

The broadcasts proved to be popular and many amateurs took advantage of them. Kruse noted that "for the first time a large number of amateurs are quite certain as to their wave lengths."

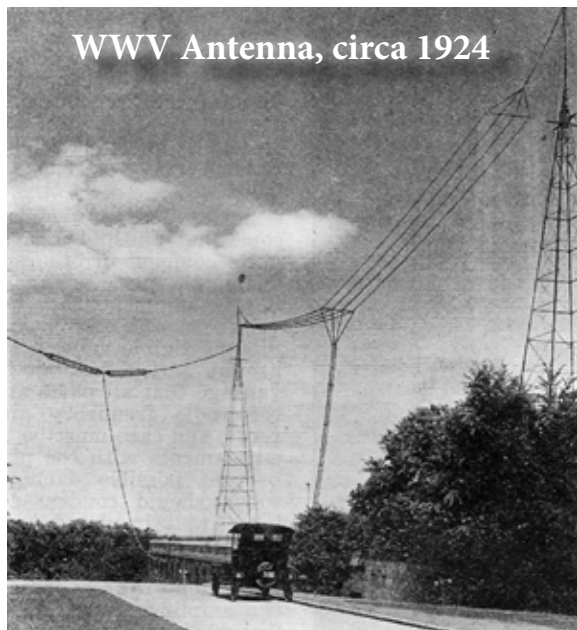
The ARRL announced that a special standard wavelength test on the night of 7 October would be shifted later in the evening to give the West Coast a better chance at participating. It also asked the Bureau to continue its schedule beyond that month's planned end date. The Bureau agreed to continue them through February. "Don't miss this chance to find out where 150 and 200 meters really are," wrote Kruse, and urged members to write to the Bureau to voice their support for making the broadcasts permanent.

Knowing what wavelength you were on did not come easily in 1923 and these broadcasts helped a lot. WWV's accuracy was 0.3% (5 kHz at 200 meters), far better than the wave meters most amateurs owned.

(continued on page 5)

History of Ham Radio... WWV

The tests' format was described as "a general call (i.e., QST de WWV), a standard frequency dash, and announcements. The call continued for two minutes, including the statement of the frequency (not wave length) being used. The standard-frequency dash was broken occasionally by the signature WWV and continued for about 4 minutes."



Response to the test broadcasts was big enough for the Bureau to notice. By autumn, WWV had expanded their operation to include several frequencies between 125 and 2,000 kHz, useful to both commercial stations and amateurs. Its one-kilowatt CW station was also equipped with a fifty-watt modulator tube and five-watt speech amplifier for making phone announcements.

Stanford University began similar transmissions at 0.3% accuracy to serve the West Coast from amateur station 6XBM. Both stations adopted the same eight-minute cycling pattern of operation. Each cycle consisted of a two-minute general call including a statement of the frequency, a standard frequency signal consisting of long dashes separated by call letters for four minutes, and announcements that included the measured frequency and the next frequency to be transmitted. A four-minute period of retuning then preceded the next cycle.

The idea also caught on in the UK where station 5HW of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, England began sending wavelength references between 833 and 5,000 meters.

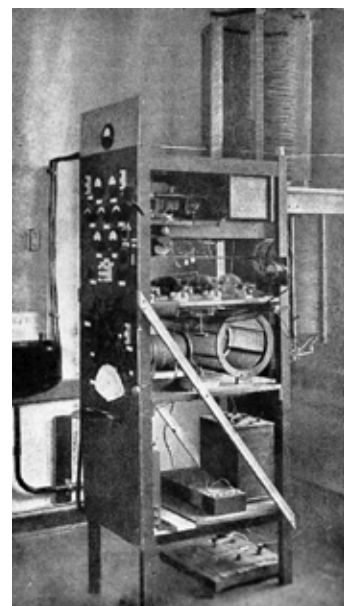
To augment the Bureau broadcasts with additional wavelength references for amateurs, the ARRL appointed twenty-four Official Wavelength Stations, or OWLS, located across the country. At a lesser accuracy than the Bureau of Standards stations, the OWLS did not operate on a set schedule of times or frequencies—they simply operated as usual and would identify using their call sign followed by a number specifying their wavelength. They were selected for their ability to maintain a frequency accuracy of 1% (or 15 kHz at 200 meters).

Living in the Baltimore area and being local to WWV, number-one YL Marion Adaire Garmhausen, 3BCK, paid a visit to the Bureau of Standards Radio Laboratory in early 1924 and described the station for QST with her usual humor. Impressed with the transmitter, "in a rack at least eight feet high by about three feet wide," and an antenna system complete with "a counterpoise to bring tears of joy to the eyes of the city cliff-dweller," she was even more impressed with the staff: "A good looking young man with curly hair was winding a coil, or maybe he was shining a shoe, we don't know. The young man smiled. He had nice white teeth. We took a sudden frenzied interest in WWV."

The transmitter consisted of speech amplifier, three 250-watt power tubes, various inductors, capacitors, and batteries. A separate rack of metering and switching equipment was nearby along with receivers, test equipment, and parts galore. And, "every time the young man smiled we felt our interest in WWV mount, whereas our curiosity regarding the rest of the Laboratory dwindled to nothing," she added.

After stalling for time with transmitter questions that were very likely redundant, she was ushered on by her guide, Miss Elizabeth M. Zandonini ("OW of DC. How that girl manages to keep all that information in one head is a mystery to us").

"It may have been mere chance, of course, or perhaps our guide had ulterior motives, but we were unceremoniously bundled out of the room after only the fourth explanation of the transmitter, and were forced to inspect the other rooms," she lamented.



**WWV Transmitter
circa 1924**

EGARA May Meeting Minutes

- The MAY meeting of the EGARAs was called to order at 7:05. There were 22 members in attendance;
- President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ welcomed everyone, followed by a round-robin introduction;
- Pizza and beverages were offered to the members;
- Raffle was offered and \$55. was collected. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets;
- A new member, Dana Jonas, WA2WNI, was welcomed to club;
- A possible field trip to ARRL was discussed. The club will determine a good date and send invitations;
- Thank You was given to Peggy Donnelly, KS2LMU, for assistance in storing club equipment during the Masonic Lodge basement renovation. In appreciation, she was awarded two years dues.
- A call was made for volunteers for the Field Day with more information to come next meeting.
- Field Day was discussed and will be held at the lodge, three stations will be used this year with Dave Smith, WA2WAP, doing digital. Members were asked to please think about when would like to operate and sign up next meeting ---Remember techs can operate this event because others with general,extra will be there to assist so new members come and learn about HF SSB and digital.
- MEMBER ITEMS :
 - Dave Smith asked about a table so members could sell stuff at meetings before 7:00 pm
 - Dave Smith also asked about looking into the club operating from the USS SLATER;
 - Lawn maintenance at the Lodge will commence soon and volunteers are needed.
 - GUEST SPEAKER Hisen Zhang Had a great demo of portable RPI SDR and software to get it going
THANK YOU Hisen
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM
- Submitted by Dave Smith, WA2WAP - Secretary Submitted by Dave Smith, WA2WAP - Secretary

Extra Hands Make Light Work

It's lawn season again and club members are always needed to assist in maintaining the Masonic Lodge grounds and building when the call for help goes out. EGARAs agreement with the lodge is that we take care of its facilities in return for use of the building and storage of the club's equipment.

During the summer, lawn maintenance usually only takes an hour or so, depending on the number of hands available. Afterwards, the crew usually gathers for lunch at a nearby restaurant, making it a social event as well.

Join us if you can!

On the Beam

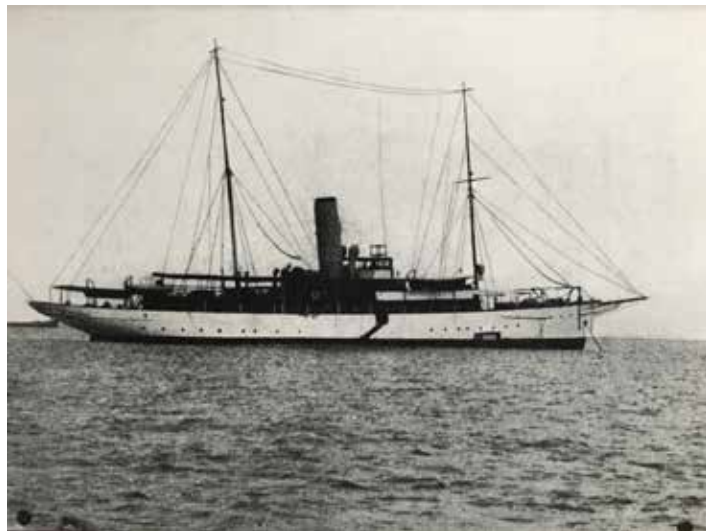
News & Notes

A Chance to Connect with Marconi

Marconi's Yacht will be back on the air with the special event call sign IY4ELE, June 4 - 5, 2022.

For the past 8 years, the ARI Fidenza Radio Club (Italian Amateur Radio Association), has celebrated a technical and cultural event at the Guglielmo Marconi Foundation at Villa Griffone in Pontecchio Marconi, Bologna, Italy -- Guglielmo Marconi's birthplace.

The purpose of the event is to highlight, at an international level, the historical value and meaning of Marconi's yacht, Elettra, which was the moving laboratory of the great Italian scientist. Several important radio communications experiments were conducted on board the yacht by Marconi during the interwar period.



Over the event weekend, amateur radio operators from around the world will have a chance to contact IY4ELE, operated by club members from a radio station located near the keel of the Elettra. For more information, visit www.arifidenza.it.

ARRL EXPO and Hamvention® 2022 a Great Success

By all accounts, the 2022 Dayton Hamvention®, which also served as the 70th reunion, was a great success. Thousands of ham radio operators, their families and friends, and other enthusiasts passed through the gates during its 3-day run, May 20 - 22, at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Local reports estimate the event brings over \$30 million dollars to the economy of the Dayton metropolitan region. Official numbers and estimates will be available later.

ARRL's exhibit area at Hamvention included a space for networking collegiate amateur radio clubs. Here's Derek Fronek, KD9MEQ, of the Purdue University Amateur Radio Club (W9YB) with Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, Advisor for the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program, www.arrl.org/WeWantU.



ARRL's large exhibit area, ARRL EXPO, included a steady flow of visitors who were treated to a variety of exhibits representing popular membership programs and services. More than a dozen booths were led by a team of 80+ program representatives and volunteers that included members of the ARRL staff, Board of Directors, and Field Organization.

Using the theme "Be Radio Active," ARRL also organized many Hamvention forums to encourage attendees to become more active and involved with amateur radio.

Field Day FAQs

Q. My group wants to start setting up in the field before the official start time on Friday. We don't want to have to rush in the heat. What do we do?

A. The rules allow groups to start setting up at 0000 UTC on Friday (which is Thursday local time: 8:00 PM EDT, 7:00 PM CDT, 6:00 PM MDT, 5:00 PDT). Groups may begin set-up, stop for the night, and return the next day. However you must be aware that you only have a cumulative total of 24-hours from when you start to finish your set-up.

Q. I am going to operate my transmitter at the club's Field Day using solar panels and 2 watts. The rest of the club will be using 100 watts and power from the generator. May we score my QSOs with the bonus multiplier of 5 and combine it with the rest of the group's multiplier of 2?

A. The Power multiplier is determined by the highest power output of any transmitter in use at the station, including the GOTA and free VHF station. To claim the multiplier of 5, ALL stations must be running QRP and must be running off of a power source other than the commercial mains or a generator. The multiplier for all QSOs from the setup described is 2.

Q. Can I help with the group Field Day effort during the day and still operate from home overnight?

A. Yes, but you may not make a contact for QSO credit with any Field Day group or station from which you participate. For example, if you operate one of the W1AW station transmitters during Field Day, you may not also work W1AW from home.

Q. We have some great Field Day photos we would like published in QST. How do we submit them? Where do we get the Release Form for youth under age 18?

A. You may submit photos several ways. Digital photos may be sent via email to fieldday@arrl.org (be sure to include captions that identify the activity and all identifiable persons in the picture and the contact information for the photographer, and when images include youth under 18 years of age please send in a Photo Release for each young person in image.) You may also upload your photos and Field Day story to the Contest Soapbox on the ARRL Website. Regular photos may be sent to Field Day, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington CT 06111 along with your paper Field Day entry, or separately showing your Field Day call sign in your note. Make sure to include captions, photographer credit and that your photos are as high resolution as possible. We can not use photos with time/date stamps included in the image. Please note that we receive thousands of pictures every year for Field Day, and space in QST is very limited. We cannot guarantee the publication of any specific photo submission. However, you are encouraged to post them to the ARRL Online Soapbox at field-day.arrl.org/fdsoapbox.php where they can be viewed and shared by the thousands of visitors to the site.

Q. We sent a press release to the local TV station, but they didn't send a crew out to cover our operation. May we still claim the Media bonus?

A. No. In order to claim the media bonus, you must obtain publicity with the media. This is a rule change for 2022. Proof of the publicity must be provided in order to claim the bonus points.

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FD FAQs...

Q. How do we indicate our bonus points in the Cabrillo log file?

A. While we accept the Cabrillo log file in lieu of the required dupe sheets, it does not accommodate all of the information required for reporting a Field Day entry. All entries must either complete the required summary sheet on-line at field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php or submit a paper summary sheet for their entry. Entries submitted via the field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php website must submit their required supporting documentation as attachments. Any submission without a completed summary (either paper or electronic) will be classified as a checklog.

Q. My club mailed its Field Day entry last week. Our president phoned this morning to see if it had arrived, but you couldn't tell him. What's going on?

A. If your entry was submitted electronically via the Field Day Web Submission App at field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php, it will appear on the Logs Received list when the entry is submitted and accepted. If you submitted as a paper submission, it takes a considerable amount of time to open and process these entries into the master database (they are all done manually.) All incoming mail is opened in the mailroom before being sent downstairs to the Contest office for processing. Because of the large volume of mail at that time of year, and because of other duties by staff in the department, it takes several weeks for mail to be opened, sorted and entered into the database after it is received. We cannot locate a specific entry without literally searching through hundreds of entries waiting to be processed by hand. Thanks for your patience and understanding. Many groups include a self-addressed stamped postcard with their entry, asking us to please return it when their entry arrives. Others will send their entry using one of the US Postal Service's options for a receipt upon delivery. Once all online and paper entries are processed into the database, they will be added to the list of Logs Received via the web applet and posted on the ARRL Contest Web pages at field-day.arrl.org/fdentriescvd.php

Q. How do I determine my ARRL section?

A. For most states, there is only one ARRL section that encompasses the entire state. Eight states (California, Washington, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts – and the Canadian province of Ontario) have multiple ARRL sections. A list of the US sections is found monthly in QST and in this packet. It is also found on-line at www.arrl.org/contest-sections-list

Q. I will be driving on vacation during Field Day and going through several sections. What section do I give in my exchange? When I change sections, do I count as a new station and am I able to re-work people?

A. Give the section in which you are currently located. You may work a station only once per band/mode, even if you change sections while mobile.

Q1. I will be using battery power but running my station at 100 watts. What is my power multiplier? Q2. I will be running QRP using my emergency generator at home. What is my power multiplier?

A. To claim the power multiplier of 5, you must be operating QRP (5 watts or less) AND running on a power source other than commercial mains or a motor-driven generator. In both of these cases, the power multiplier is 2.

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FD FAQs...

Q. What equipment at our Field Day site must be operated off of the emergency power in order to claim the 100-point per transmitter bonus?

A. You must operate all transmitting and receiving equipment from emergency power. If you use a computer for digital modes, and/or to control or operate the radio, it also must use emergency power. If the computer is used only for logging and is not keying the transmitter, it does not need to be emergency powered.

Q. I am going to be a home station using emergency power. What bonus points may I claim?

A. All entry classes now are able to claim certain bonus points. Refer to Field Day Rule 7.3. for specifics.

Q. We will be running a generator to power our stations, but will be using commercial power for the lights, coffee pot, etc. What power source should we check?

A. Only check the power source which is used to operate the transmitting/receiving equipment.

Q. My buddy and I will be going to the campground with our families for Field Day. Only he and I will be setting up the station and operating. Are we Class A or B?

A. In this instance, the entry class is B.

Q. I will be camping with my family during Field Day. My three kids will help me set up the antennas and station, but they will be busy doing other things while I operate. Am I still Class B?

A. Class B stations may only have 1 or 2 persons involved in its set-up and operation. In this instance, the entry class is A.

Q. We don't have an area club, but we do have a small group of area hams (generally two or three of us get together for operating events). I have a large-deep property, and we will be setting up in my back yard. What Class would we be? Class A, Class B or ?

A. Convenient access across one's backyard to their home station facilities is not in keeping with the spirit of Class A or Class B portable operations. Such convenient backyard operations on property of home stations remain either Class D (commercial power) or Class E (emergency power), even if home antenna structures are not used. If the station will be a 'good hike' away from a home station (eg, at the rear of a several acre lot, or perhaps operating from a farmers field down the road) - clearly away from home conveniences (away from home utilities, or home restrooms/bedrooms, or even eating facilities/refrigerator/kitchen) - then Class A (3 or more persons portable) or Class B (1 or 2 person portable) is appropriate.

Q. How do we sign forms that we send in via the web app at field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php?

A. Electronic submissions are considered signed when submitted.

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FD FAQs...

Q. What kind of “proofs of bonus points” do we need to send?

A. It depends on which bonuses you claim. For emergency power, public location, public information table, satellite QSO, alternate power, and non-traditional modes, a signed statement from a club official attesting to the fact is sufficient. Copies of the message to the Section Manager, any messages sent or received, the WIAW message, and any copies of news stories that your local media actually runs must be included to claim those bonuses. The Safety Officer must sign a statement attesting that the checklist was completed. A statement stating what Social Media used will suffice for that bonus. Photos are also nice to have to share with ARRL and others in your social media. When submitting an electronic entry, documentation can be uploaded using the “Upload Documentation” link on the entry form. If an upload button does not appear next to the bonus point check box, no documentation is required for that particular bonus point- checking the box suffices as a “signed statement”.

Q. What about the 60-meter band? May we use it in Field Day?

A. Because of the limited scope of the 60-meter band, it is not included in bands eligible for Field Day use. In addition the 2200, 630, 30, 17 and 12 meter bands are NOT eligible for use in Field Day.

Q. Can we claim the GOTA station for a 100-point emergency power bonus? What about the free VHF station?

A. Neither the GOTA station or the free VHF station are eligible for the per station 100-point emergency power bonus.

Q. I sent the Section Manager (SM) a participation message. Do I also get 10 points for sending it under the NTS bonus?

A. Sorry, you can’t “double dip.” The SM participation message is not eligible for the formal message bonus.

Q. Why doesn’t our contact with the International Space Station count for the satellite bonus?

A. While the ISS is by definition a satellite, the purpose of the satellite QSO bonus is to complete an Earth-to-Earth contact via an amateur radio satellite. Since the ISS contact doesn’t relay back to Earth, it doesn’t meet that requirement, though it does count for regular QSO credit (and is sure to generate excitement at your site)!

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It’s Never Too Late for Paying 2022 Dues!

April is the normal deadline to renew your annual membership -- but it’s never too late to support your club

You can also take advantage of an EGARA multi-year discount! Remember too, it’s easy to pay dues on-line, using the club’s fast and secure PayPal account, or you may mail a check. Information on dues options and the PayPal link are at:

<https://www.egara.club/pay-dues>

There has been no increase in dues for 2022.

FD FAQs...

Q1. I am a member of two clubs. Can I participate in Field Day with more than one group? Q2. I will be participating with my club Saturday during the day. Can I get on from home and make some Field Day contacts afterwards?

A. The answer in both cases is YES. The only limitation is that you cannot make contacts for score with any group or station from which you participate with during Field Day. For example, you can't call the club's FD 2-meter station while driving to or from the site or from home in order for them to "put you in the log" for QSO point credit.

Q. Can I operate FT4/FT8 for Field Day?

A. All digital modes can be used during Field Day, provided they can accommodate the Field Day exchange.

Q. Our club's Field Day site has a high noise floor, can we operate a club member's home station remotely?

A. Remote operation of a club member's home station from the Field Day site is not allowed. All transmitters, receivers and antennas used during Field Day must lie within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet). For demonstration purposes as an educational activity, you can certainly set up a remote station, but those QSOs will not be counted towards the club's score, and must utilize the callsign of the station operator, not the Field Day call.

Find all the Field Day Rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules>

How to Succeed with Field Day By Really, REALLY Trying! Helpful Field Day Tips

Here are some helpful hints that ought to help you plan and set up for your Field Day operation. Although every Field Day setup is different, and everyone has a different way of doing things, these tips should at least point you in the right direction.

Safety Tips

- **Safety First!** Follow the ARRL safety code as you set up. Appoint a "safety officer" and charge them with making sure no accidents happen. See elsewhere in this packet for information on the 100-point bonus for a Safety Officer for Class A stations.
- More people are killed by contact with regular 120-VAC line service than by any other voltage. The voltages in many power supplies can be lethal! Don't take any chances! Never use "three-prong" adapters to connect your equipment to your power source. Remember, the power coming out of your generator is as lethal as the AC plugs in your home!
- Always kill all power circuits completely before opening up a piece of equipment and trying to troubleshoot it. Never allow anyone else to switch the power on and off for you while you're working on something. Never try to fix something while you're tired or sleepy. If you're working on older tube-type gear, or an amplifier, always unplug the unit from the AC mains and wait at least 5 minutes before you begin. When troubleshooting this kind of equipment, always keep one hand in your pocket to protect against accidental shock. Never wear watches or jewelry when you're working on gear. (continued on page 13)

Field Day Check List...

- NEVER climb any tower without the proper equipment: a hard hat and a climbing belt are musts. NEVER climb an un-guyed tower. NEVER work on a tower alone. Always have someone on the ground to watch you. Always make certain that all mechanical connections are tight and secure before erecting a tower or an antenna. What may be easy to fix on the ground could be dangerous in the air. When erecting a tower, take your time and be safe! Always make sure your guys are securely anchored, and that the guys themselves are sufficiently taut.
- Tying flags to guy wires in strategic spots will help prevent people from walking into them (especially visitors!). Make certain that the tower bases are secure and unlikely to shift in high winds.
- Alcohol and towers do not mix! If you drink, don't climb! If you climb, don't drink!
- Watch out for overhead power lines! Make certain they are at least twice the height of any antenna's height in distance away: an antenna 50' high should be at least 100' from any overhead line, for example.
- Ensure that your Field Day station complies with all of the FCC RF exposure requirements. Erect antennas far enough away from operating positions so there is no possibility of the antenna and structure falling on operators and observers.
- Make certain there are enough fire extinguishers, and that everyone knows where they are. Always keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher by the generator. Never fuel a running generator. Never smoke around a generator. Keep the fuel in a separate place away from the hot generator. Generators should always be kept outdoors in an area with good air circulation. to prevent the possibility of exhaust and gas fumes building up. Check all your extension cords prior to setup for signs of wear or fraying. Discard any that show even the slightest wear. Guard all outlets from any water. Make sure the wire sizes are adequate enough to handle the load.
- Watch out for lightning! Storms can develop and move quickly. At the first sign of a storm, disconnect all antennas from the rigs, shut down the generators, and head for shelter. You don't have to take a direct hit in order to sustain damage, or electrical shock. Summer thunderstorms are accompanied by high winds and rain. Play it safe!
- During an overnight operation, make sure that there is adequate security for those involved, including adequate lighting. More than one Field Day operation has discovered too late that equipment has been permanently "borrowed" from an operating position left unattended during the wee-hours of the morning.

Setup

- Check out your operating site ahead of time. Avoid confusion on Field Day by preparing a work plan. You'll want to determine where antenna, power sources, and operating positions should be placed. Coordinate in advance the order for each task.
- Make sure that all essential items will be on hand when they are needed. Don't forget the essential creature comforts, such as trash cans, toilet paper, flashlights, bug spray, first aid kit, etc.
- Nothing can kill the Field Day enthusiasm faster than not having sufficient help to set-up and tear-down the site. Sign up your volunteers early. Be proactive in soliciting volunteers. Don't just say "we need help." Personally invite individuals to participate (i.e. "Pete I could really use your help as the 10meter Phone band captain.")
- Always have designated "tour guides", that is, persons ready to guide any visitors who might happen by your site and show an interest in ham radio. This is also a good way to drum up interest in a class. Not only is this a chance to show off your hobby in a favorable light, but it is also worth some bonus points! Set up a table with some handouts about ham radio, your club, and Field Day. Type up a sheet that describes your club, the operation, and include a person to contact for more information. When giving a tour, make sure not to lapse into "ham speak": try to explain what people doing in easy-to-understand language. Avoid Jargon!
- If the media comes by, make certain that something is going on. TV, radio and print journalists will be much more impressed to see antennas going up and people making contacts than they will by a group of people sitting around.

(continued on page 14)

Field Day Check List...

- Give everyone something to do. Newer hams can help assemble antennas and setting up gear – but also spend time with them, Elmering them through some on-the-air contacts at the main station. The more people are involved, the better time you will all have. This is a great chance to give some of your newer hams some practical experience.
- Do what it takes to get the new hams ON THE AIR! FD is a great opportunity for new hams to learn how to operate!
- Keep a handy list of ARRL Section abbreviations at every operating position. This will eliminate possible confusion later on. If everyone uses the same abbreviations, it will save some headaches when it comes time to check over the logs.
- Make sure everyone keeps up the dupe sheets or logging duties. If you have operators who have never used one, sit them down with someone beforehand to show them how it's done. Consider a club program before Field Day to familiarize your members with logging, duping and operating. There are numerous free computer logging programs for Field Day. Find one, learn it and use it. It will simplify your life. Finally, before the actual start of operating, have a final “participant briefing” so that all involved know the necessary safety and operational information. It's a great way to officially kick off the weekend!

Operating

- Keep an ever-constant eye on 10 and 6 meters. If those bands open up, you should have lots of stations to work. If the band is quiet, don't assume that it's dead. Throw out a CQ or try to stir up interest. Everyone else could be listening, too! Remember: all licensed amateurs have some type of HF-operating privileges on 10-meters and almost all have 6-meter privileges.
- Listen around on the bands the week before the contest. This gives you a good idea of what to expect in the way of propagation during Field Day. Check your logs from previous years and see if you can spot any trends, i.e. hours when certain bands were open, or had a high level of activity. Certain bands in certain areas can be extremely important in working up a good score. For example, 40 meters on the East Coast is a bread and butter band for Field Day while 6-meters almost always has great openings in late June.
- Decide which bands are going to be the most important to your score and try to maximize your effort on them by using the best antennas possible combined with your best gear and best operators.
- Don't ignore one mode for another. Many groups have concentrated on CW only to miss out on some easy Phone contacts, and vice versa. Digital modes, especially MSK144 on VHF, and FT8 on HF and VHF are two of the fastest growing areas of Field Day contacts. Always keep in mind that every contact counts, no matter what the mode.
- Read the rules very carefully. Look over the bonus points available. A number of these could be relatively easy to earn. If your club has any traffic handlers, they could easily help you earn the message bonus. Copy the W1AW bulletin! This is an easy 100 points. W1AW and K6KPH come on the air several times each day to give you an extra chance to copy the message.
- Remember! Every 100 bonus points you earn are that many QSOs you wouldn't need to make to have the same score.

On Using Computers and Logging

- Check out your software ahead of time. Make certain that it works on all the computers you'll be using. If you're using a software package that allows networking stations (i.e. more than one computer tied together) make sure that they can communicate with each other before Field Day starts. Have a sheet available with the most commonly used commands. Consider a meeting where everyone can sit down and become familiar with the computer and software before Field Day. Also, have a sheet available at each station with a list of the ARRL\RAC Sections for easy reference. And don't forget to have some “emergency” logging and dupe sheets in case of computer failure.
- Make sure your computer has the proper date and time set before operating. This will save you many problems in the long run. And remember, for your submission to ARRL you just submit a list of stations worked by band and mode, not a complete log, so Cabrillo is not required.

CALENDAR

June 8, 2022 - 7 pm - Regular monthly club meeting. Masonic Lodge, 710 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush, NY.

June 24-25-26 - Field Day 2022. Masonic Lodge, 710 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush, NY. Set up at 5 pm on 6/24.

August 27, 2022 - Hamfest 2020, East Greenbush Town Park

Pro Tip: A Better Shack



1. To keep RFI out of your shack (does nothing for your neighbors) at termination point of antenna use 6-8 wraps of 6" coil dia coax. Don't let 1st wrap touch last wrap is all you need to look out for.

2. Do not set external tuner directly on top of rig. The older manual tuners would distort the audio on some bands. This may not be a problem with the newer tuners but better to keep the separation anyway.

3. Keep a small fan blowing on the back of the rig or power supply to help things out. If your rig or power supply fans keep coming on this will help keep things cooler and extend component life.

4. Keep laptops and desktops at least 2-3 feet away from your rig to minimize RFI problems. It helps to ground the rig too!

5. Keep signal and audio cables as far away from power cords as possible. If you have them all bunched together, you will have problems one day.



For Sale...

- **Mega Take It Along** (Mega TIA) Wolf River Coil 80-10 antenna asking \$180.00
contact Walt at
n2wj07@gmail.com
- IFR-1100S Service Monitor. With Spectrum Analyzer and Oscilloscope. Previously tested and calibrated.
- AM - FM, CTCSS Generator, In very good condition.
\$700.00, offers welcome via email.

Contact John Maddalla,
WB2HZT at radiowizz@aol.com

- **Heathkit DX 35** with VFO and PTT, \$150
- **Heathkit DX 60** with VFO and PTT, \$150
- **Kenwood 520** Transceiver \$225.00
Contact Tom at kc2fc@nycap.rr.com

- **VIBROPLEX "Bug" semi-automatic key.** Original "PRESENTATION" Model with Gold Plated baseplate escutcheon. Beautiful heavily chromed upper parts, bright red finger pieces, jeweled bearings. Lists for \$350 but you can own this beauty for only \$250 plus postage. In absolutely beautiful condition, this dazzling example of Vibroplex engineering will be supplied in a unique hard-shell protective carrying case.

Contact Steve at: (518) 326-0902 or
stevewb2hpr@gmail.com

Got Gear to Sell, Want to Buy or Swap?

Don't forget you can run a classified ad
in Sidebands completely FREE!

Send a brief description and your asking price to:
W2RBJ@outlook.com

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.